



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6664

January Session, 2001

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Connecticut Services for the Blind, in
2 collaboration with the Department of Education, shall support local
3 school districts in meeting the educational needs of children with
4 vision-related disabilities by providing, within available
5 appropriations, advice, assistance and resources, including the
6 specialized educational services and materials children require because
7 of their blindness or visual impairment.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) There is established a Connecticut Services for the
9 Blind Advisory Board which shall consist of eight members. The
10 Commissioner of Social Services and an employee of the Department
11 of Education knowledgeable in the area of special education appointed
12 by the Commissioner of Education shall be members, ex officio. The
13 other six members, two of whom shall be blind persons, shall be
14 appointed by the Governor, and each shall be a resident of this state.
15 The Governor may, for reasonable cause, remove any appointive
16 member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the
17 unexpired portion of the term. Said board shall meet annually in the
18 month of September and may meet at any other time upon the call of

19 the executive director of the Connecticut Services for the Blind; and
20 said director shall call a meeting at the request of two members. Any
21 appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or
22 fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be
23 deemed to have resigned. A majority of the members in office shall
24 constitute a quorum.

25 (b) The advisory board shall advise and make recommendations to
26 the Connecticut Services for the Blind established under section 10-293
27 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

28 Sec. 3. Section 5-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

30 (a) Vending stand operators, operating stands under permits held
31 by the [State Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
32 Blind pursuant to section 10-303, shall be members of the state
33 employees retirement system, part A, exclusive of the Social Security
34 option and benefits in the state employees' retirement system
35 dependent thereon. Each such person shall annually, on or before June
36 thirtieth, pay five per cent of his or her adjusted gross income, arising
37 out of the operation of such stand, as determined under the Internal
38 Revenue Code, during the calendar year preceding to the [Board of
39 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind which shall, as the
40 state administering agency for such persons, certify such payment and
41 pay it over to the State Retirement Commission, provided membership
42 of such persons in said system shall be exclusive of disability
43 retirement upon the grounds of defects of vision.

44 (b) Any member of the state employees retirement system who
45 operated vending stands under permits held by the [State Board of
46 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind pursuant to section
47 10-303, prior to October 1, 1971, may obtain credit for such period or
48 periods of service for retirement purposes; provided he or she has been
49 in the active full-time employment of the state continuously for twelve
50 months next preceding his or her written request to the Retirement

51 Commission for such credit, and by making retirement contributions
52 of five per cent of his or her adjusted gross income arising out of the
53 operation of such stands for each of such years with interest thereon at
54 the rate of five per cent per year from the time of such operation to the
55 date of payment, all as certified by the [State Board of Education and]
56 Connecticut Services for the Blind. Such payments may be made in
57 twelve equal monthly installments but such service credit shall not be
58 granted unless payment of installments is completed.

59 Sec. 4. Section 5-177 of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

61 Any person in the unclassified service employed full time by the
62 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut, the State Board of
63 Education, the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
64 Blind, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the American
65 School for the Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, the
66 Newington Children's Hospital, the Board of Trustees of the
67 Connecticut State University System or the Board of Trustees of the
68 Community-Technical Colleges, as a teacher or administrator in a
69 position directly involved in educational activities in any state-
70 operated institution or the Board of Governors of Higher Education,
71 who served prior to his or her employment by the state in a full-time
72 teaching, administrative or research position in an educational
73 institution in or under the authority of a state department of education
74 or a department of education for the blind in the United States
75 approved by the Retirement Commission, or who was employed by
76 such institution but served all or part of such service time in a foreign
77 country, for which service he or she has received or will receive no
78 retirement benefit or pension, may gain credit for such prior service,
79 not to exceed ten years in the aggregate, by making retirement
80 contributions for each year of such prior service equal to six per cent of
81 his or her annual rate of compensation when he or she first became a
82 full-time employee of this state; provided such payment shall be made
83 within one year of his or her first full-time employment with the state,
84 or before July 1, 1968, whichever is later, but for the Board of Higher

85 Education and Technical Colleges, July 1, 1974. When a person who
86 has gained credit for such prior service retires, not more than one year
87 of such service may be counted for each two years of state service;
88 provided, if such person has purchased more of such service than can
89 be counted, refund on the amount paid on the extra years of service
90 shall be made.

91 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
92 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

93 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
94 (1) vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state
95 employee's retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a, shall be
96 eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical and
97 surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the cost
98 for such operators' insurance coverage shall be paid by the [Board of
99 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind from vending
100 machine income pursuant to section 10-303, and (2) blind persons
101 employed in workshops established pursuant to section 10-298a, shall
102 be eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical
103 and surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the
104 cost for such persons' insurance coverage shall be paid by the [Board of
105 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind.

106 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-76y of the general statutes is
107 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

108 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, school
109 districts, regional educational service centers, the [Board of Education
110 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, and all other state and local
111 governmental agencies concerned with education may loan, lease or
112 transfer an assistive device for the use and benefit of a student with a
113 disability to such student or the parent or guardian of such student or
114 to any other public or private nonprofit agency providing services to
115 or on behalf of individuals with disabilities including, but not limited
116 to, an agency providing educational, health or rehabilitative services.

117 Such device may be sold or transferred pursuant to this section
118 regardless of whether the device was declared surplus. The sale or
119 transfer shall be recorded in an agreement between the parties and
120 based upon the depreciated value of the device. For the purposes of
121 this section, "assistive device" means any item, piece of equipment or
122 product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf,
123 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve
124 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

125 Sec. 7. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

127 [(a) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall consist
128 of seven members. The Commissioner of Social Services shall be a
129 member, ex officio. The other six members, two of whom shall be blind
130 persons, shall be appointed by the Governor, and each shall be a
131 resident of this state. The Governor may, for reasonable cause, remove
132 any appointive member and appoint another person to fill the vacancy
133 for the unexpired portion of the term. Said board shall meet annually
134 in the month of September and may meet at any other time upon the
135 call of its director; and the director shall call a meeting at the request of
136 two members. Any appointed member who fails to attend three
137 consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held during any
138 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. A majority of the
139 members in office shall constitute a quorum.]

140 (a) There shall be a Connecticut Services for the Blind. The [board]
141 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall adopt rules for its own action
142 and regulations for determining [what] those persons who shall
143 receive benefits under the provisions of this chapter.

144 (b) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
145 shall be within the Department of Social Services for administrative
146 purposes only.

147 Sec. 8. Section 10-294 of the general statutes is repealed and the
148 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

149 The Governor shall appoint an executive director of the [board]
150 Connecticut Services for the Blind in accordance with the provisions of
151 section 4-9a. The compensation of said director shall be determined in
152 the manner provided in section 4-40. [No member of the board shall
153 receive compensation for services rendered unless such services are
154 special and specially requested by the board, in which case a moderate
155 allowance may be made for the time actually spent. The certificate of
156 the director of the amount of any bill for such services and expenses
157 shall be sufficient warrant to the Comptroller for the payment of the
158 same.]

159 Sec. 9. Section 10-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the
160 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

161 (a) There is established [a Braille Literacy] an Advisory Council on
162 Vision Education Services which shall (1) review Braille literacy and
163 [assess the availability of services for visually impaired children of
164 school age] evaluate and assess the array of education services
165 available to children with vision-related disabilities, access to such
166 services, materials, equipment, technology and outcomes of the
167 services provided, (2) collect data on the frequency with which an
168 individualized education plan contains a recommendation or
169 determination that a visually impaired child should not be taught
170 Braille and the reasons therefore, (3) evaluate the learning media
171 assessments for visually impaired children and the need for a common
172 standard for such assessments which shall be periodically reviewed,
173 (4) develop a plan to attract qualified teachers for visually impaired
174 children, (5) assess methods to improve coordination between the
175 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind and local
176 education agencies which employ teachers of visually impaired
177 children relative to Braille instruction and the teaching of such children
178 and the expansion of professional development programs for teachers
179 of visually impaired children employed by said board and such
180 agencies, (6) encourage local school districts to require vendors of
181 school textbooks to provide electronic or Braille versions of such books
182 in the American Standard Code for Information Interchange format or

183 other text-based computer accessible format in a timely fashion, and
184 (7) review the caseloads and direct service time of teachers of visually
185 impaired children employed by the [Board of Education and]
186 Connecticut Services for the Blind and teachers of such children
187 employed by local education agencies, and assess the literacy of such
188 children attending schools with such teachers.

189 (b) Said advisory council shall consist of the following members: (1)
190 The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee; (2)
191 the executive director of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
192 Services for the Blind or said director's designee; (3) one representative
193 of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, appointed by
194 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (4) one teacher of visually
195 impaired children employed by the [Board of Education and]
196 Connecticut Services for the Blind and one teacher who specializes in
197 providing vision-related education services to students with multiple
198 disabilities, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one
199 teacher of visually impaired children employed by a local education
200 agency, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (6) one public
201 school administrator, appointed by the speaker of the House of
202 Representatives; (7) one visually impaired public high school student
203 who reads and writes braille, appointed by the majority leader of the
204 House of Representatives; (8) one representative of the Connecticut
205 Council of the Blind, appointed by the minority leader of the House of
206 Representatives; and (9) one parent of a visually impaired child of
207 school age enrolled in a public school and one parent of a blind or
208 visually impaired child with additional disabilities, appointed by the
209 Governor.

210 (c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made no later
211 than sixty days after May 26, 2000. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
212 appointing authority.

213 (d) The advisory council shall elect a chairperson from among its
214 members, except that the speaker of the House of Representatives and
215 the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons

216 for the first meeting of the advisory council. Such chairpersons shall
217 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held
218 no later than ninety days after May 26, 2000.

219 (e) Any member who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings
220 held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from
221 office. Members of the advisory council shall serve without
222 compensation.

223 (f) Not later than January 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
224 advisory council shall submit a report on its findings and
225 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
226 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, human
227 services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

228 Sec. 10. Section 10-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the
229 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

230 (a) All residents of this state, regardless of age, who, because of
231 blindness or impaired vision, require special educational programs, on
232 the signed recommendation of the director of the [Board of Education
233 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, shall be entitled to receive
234 such instruction and for such length of time as is deemed expedient by
235 said director. The director shall annually submit to the [board]
236 Connecticut Services for the Blind the list of names of persons so
237 recommended. Upon the petition of any parent or guardian of a blind
238 educable child or a child with impaired vision, a local board of
239 education may provide such instruction within the town or it may
240 provide for such instruction by agreement with other towns as
241 provided in subsection (d) of section 10-76d. The expense of such
242 instruction shall be paid by the state to an amount not exceeding six
243 thousand four hundred dollars for each of such persons in any one
244 state fiscal year. When the parents or guardians of any such blind
245 person or person with impaired vision are not able to provide clothing
246 for such person, an additional sum not to exceed one hundred dollars
247 per year may be allowed for such expenses. Where a local or regional

248 board of education reimburses parents or legal guardians of a blind or
249 visually impaired child for transportation to and from a specialized
250 residential facility serving the blind, such board shall be reimbursed by
251 the state for such validated actual cost up to a maximum of three
252 hundred dollars per pupil per school year. Determination of
253 reimbursable transportation costs and payment therefor shall be the
254 responsibility of the [State Board of Education and] Connecticut
255 Services for the Blind. All educational privileges prescribed in part V
256 of chapter 164, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter,
257 shall apply to the pupils covered by this subsection. The [Board of
258 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind may provide any of
259 the educational services described in this section to a child whose
260 vision may be greater than as defined in section 10-294a upon written
261 referral by the local or regional board of education responsible for
262 providing special education and related services pursuant to section
263 10-76d. A request from a local or regional board of education for
264 reimbursement of such expenses to the [Board of Education and]
265 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall not be eligible for such
266 reimbursement unless such request is received by the first of June for
267 such expenses incurred during the preceding first of July through the
268 thirty-first of December and by the first of December for expenses
269 incurred during the preceding first of January through the thirtieth of
270 June.

271 (b) [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the Blind may expend
272 funds up to eleven thousand dollars per fiscal year per child for the
273 purpose of sending children who are both blind or visually impaired
274 and deaf, or blind or visually impaired with other severe physical
275 handicaps, to specialized facilities within or outside the state
276 furnishing proper facilities for education of such children; provided
277 blind children or children with visual impairment who are mentally
278 retarded or emotionally maladjusted who can reasonably profit by
279 special training, facilities and services may be included in the
280 provisions of this section. Such funds may be spent outside the state
281 for room, board, tuition and other items necessarily relevant to the

282 education of such children. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for
283 the Blind may determine if such children should be sent to such out-of-
284 state places and may promulgate such regulations as it deems
285 necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this subsection. To be
286 eligible for aid under this subsection, the child and either of such
287 child's parents or guardian shall be bona fide residents of this state.

288 (c) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
289 may provide for the instruction of the adult blind in their homes,
290 expending annually for this purpose such sums as the General
291 Assembly may appropriate.

292 (d) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
293 may expend up to ten thousand dollars per fiscal year per person
294 twenty-one years of age or over who is both blind or visually impaired
295 and deaf for the purpose of sending such person to a specialized public
296 or private facility within the state furnishing programs from which
297 such person can profit. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the
298 Blind may determine the criteria by which a person is sent to a
299 specialized public or private facility and may adopt regulations
300 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

301 (e) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
302 may, within available appropriations, purchase adaptive equipment
303 for persons receiving services pursuant to this chapter. The cost of
304 such purchases shall not exceed, and shall be included in, the
305 maximum amount authorized for instructional expenses under
306 subsection (a) of this section.

307 Sec. 11. Section 10-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the
308 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

309 The executive director of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
310 Services for the Blind may make grants, within available
311 appropriations, to the Connecticut Radio Information Service, Inc., for
312 the purchase of receivers and for costs related to the operation of said
313 service.

314 Sec. 12. Section 10-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
315 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

316 (a) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
317 shall, annually, as provided in section 4-60, submit to the Governor its
318 report, containing a statement of [the] its activities [of the board]
319 during the preceding year. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for
320 the Blind shall prepare and maintain a register of the blind in this state
321 which shall describe their condition, cause of blindness and capacity
322 for education and industrial training. The [board] Connecticut Services
323 for the Blind may register cases of persons whose eyesight is seriously
324 defective and who are liable to become visually handicapped or blind,
325 and may take such measures in cooperation with other authorities as it
326 deems advisable for the prevention of blindness or conservation of
327 eyesight and, in appropriate cases, for the education of children and
328 for the vocational guidance of adults having seriously defective sight
329 but who are not blind.

330 (b) The [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind may accept and
331 receive any bequest or gift of personal property and, subject to the
332 consent of the Governor and Attorney General as provided in section
333 4b-22, any devise or gift of real property made to [said board] the
334 Connecticut Services for the Blind, and may hold and use such
335 property for the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such
336 bequest, devise or gift.

337 Sec. 13. Section 10-298a of the general statutes is repealed and the
338 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

339 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is
340 authorized (1) to maintain and develop workshops for training and
341 employing blind persons in trades and occupations suited to their
342 abilities, for the purpose of producing suitable products and services
343 used by departments, agencies and institutions of the state and its
344 political subdivisions, including, but not limited to towns, cities,
345 boroughs and school districts; (2) to aid blind persons in securing

346 employment, in developing home industries and in marketing their
347 products and services; and (3) to develop and implement rules and
348 guidelines to guarantee that the dignity and rights of citizens involved
349 in such workshops and work training programs shall be maintained.

350 Sec. 14. Section 10-298b of the general statutes is repealed and the
351 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

352 Whenever any of the products made or manufactured or services
353 provided by blind persons under the direction or supervision of the
354 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind meet the
355 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in
356 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such
357 products shall have preference, except over articles produced or
358 manufactured by Department of Correction industries as provided in
359 section 18-88, and except for emergency purchases made under section
360 4-98. All departments, institutions and agencies supported in whole or
361 in part by the state shall purchase such articles and services from the
362 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. Any
363 political subdivision of the state may purchase such articles made or
364 manufactured and services provided by the blind through the [Board
365 of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind. [Said board] The
366 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall issue at sufficiently frequent
367 intervals for distribution to the Commissioner of Administrative
368 Services, the Comptroller and the political subdivisions of the state, a
369 catalog showing styles, designs, sizes and varieties of all products
370 made by blind persons pursuant to this section or handicapped
371 persons pursuant to section 17b-656 and describing all available
372 services provided by the blind or handicapped.

373 Sec. 15. Section 10-298c of the general statutes is repealed and the
374 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

375 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (1) fix a fair
376 market price, based on the cost of materials, labor and overhead, for all
377 articles and services offered for sale and described in the most recent

378 catalog issued by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services
379 for the Blind pursuant to section 10-298b, provided that the cost of
380 labor on which such fair market price is based shall conform to federal
381 minimum wage regulations for handicapped workers; (2) determine
382 whether or not products produced or services provided by blind
383 persons or handicapped persons meet the reasonable requirements of
384 state departments, agencies and institutions; and (3) authorize state
385 departments, agencies and institutions to purchase articles and
386 services elsewhere when requisitions cannot be complied with through
387 the products and services listed in the most current catalog issued by
388 the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
389 pursuant to section 10-298b.

390 Sec. 16. Section 10-300a of the general statutes is repealed and the
391 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

392 (a) No goods, wares or merchandise shall be labeled, designated or
393 represented as having been manufactured or produced in whole or in
394 part by any blind person or by any public or private institute, agency
395 or corporation serving the blind unless at least seventy-five per cent of
396 the total hours of labor performed on such goods, wares or
397 merchandise shall have been rendered by a blind person, as defined in
398 section 10-294a. Any person, institute, agency or nonprofit corporation
399 which so manufactures or produces such goods shall register annually,
400 on July first, with the [board of education and services] Connecticut
401 Services for the [blind] Blind and may affix or cause to be affixed to
402 such goods a stamp or label which identifies such goods as the
403 products of blind persons.

404 (b) The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
405 shall adopt regulations pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 to
406 carry out the provisions of this section.

407 (c) Any person, institute, agency or nonprofit corporation which
408 violates any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not more
409 than one hundred dollars for each violation.

410 Sec. 17. Section 10-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
411 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

412 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,
413 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant
414 to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind a
415 permit to operate in such building or on such property a food service
416 facility, a vending machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers,
417 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles
418 as such authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority,
419 such facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any
420 person operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945,
421 shall be permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's
422 ceasing such operation such authority shall grant a permit for
423 continued operation to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
424 Services for the Blind. [Said board] The Connecticut Services for the
425 Blind may establish a training facility at any such location.

426 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.
427 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the [Board of
428 Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is authorized to
429 maintain a savings account and to accrue interest thereon for nonstate
430 vending machine income which, in accordance with federal
431 regulations, shall be used for the payment of fringe benefits to the
432 vending facility operators by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
433 Services for the Blind.

434 Sec. 18. Section 10-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the
435 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

436 The sales and service account for the [Board of Education and]
437 Connecticut Services for the Blind shall be established as a separate
438 account within the General Fund for the purpose of aiding the blind by
439 providing sales and service opportunities. Any money received by the
440 [board] Connecticut Services for the Blind from refunds for materials
441 advanced for manufacture by the blind, and from the sales of articles

442 or goods manufactured by the blind, and from the sale of other articles
443 or goods, or from sales held to assist the blind, shall be deposited in
444 the General Fund and credited to the account. Payments shall be made
445 from the account for labor or services rendered in connection with the
446 manufacture of articles for resale, for the purchase of materials used in
447 such manufacture, for the purchase of merchandise for resale and for
448 labor, supplies and other operating expenses connected with the
449 operation of vending stands and sales and service opportunities. Bills
450 contracted by the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for
451 the Blind for the purposes specified in this section shall be paid by
452 order of the Comptroller against the account in the manner provided
453 by law for the payment of all claims against the state. At the end of
454 each fiscal year, any surplus as of June thirtieth determined by
455 including cash, accounts receivable and inventories less accounts
456 payable over the sum of three hundred thousand dollars derived from
457 sales of manufactured goods or articles or other sales, in excess of such
458 cost of labor or services, materials, merchandise, supplies and other
459 such operating expenses, shall revert to the General Fund of the state.

460 Sec. 19. Section 10-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
461 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

462 Each physician and optometrist shall report in writing to the [Board
463 of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind within thirty days
464 each blind person coming under his or her private or institutional care
465 within this state. The report of such blind person shall include the
466 name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, date of diagnosis
467 of blindness and degree of vision. Such reports shall not be open to
468 public inspection.

469 Sec. 20. Section 10-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the
470 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

471 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
472 may maintain a rehabilitation service for the vocational rehabilitation
473 and placement in remunerative employment of persons whose

474 capacity to earn a living has been lost or impaired by reason of
475 lessened visual acuity. For the purpose of this section and sections 10-
476 307 and 10-308: "Vocational rehabilitation" means any services,
477 provided directly or through public or private instrumentalities, found
478 to be necessary to compensate a person whose visual acuity has been
479 impaired for his or her employment handicap and to enable such
480 person to engage in a remunerative occupation, including, but not
481 limited to, medical and vocational diagnosis, vocational guidance,
482 counseling and placement, rehabilitation training, physical restoration,
483 transportation, occupational licenses, customary occupational tools
484 and equipment, maintenance and training books and materials;
485 "rehabilitation training" means all necessary training provided for a
486 person whose visual acuity has been impaired to compensate for his or
487 her employment handicap, including, but not limited to, manual,
488 preconditioning, prevocational, vocational and supplementary training
489 and training provided for the purpose of achieving broader and more
490 remunerative skills and capacity; and "physical restoration" means any
491 medical, surgical or therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or
492 substantially reduce within a reasonable length of time the
493 employment handicap of a person whose visual acuity has been
494 impaired, including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, dental
495 and surgical treatment, nursing service, hospital care, convalescent
496 home care, drugs, medical and surgical supplies and prosthetic
497 appliances, but excluding curative treatment for acute or transitory
498 conditions.

499 Sec. 21. Section 10-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the
500 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

501 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind is
502 empowered to receive any federal funds made available to this state
503 under which vocational rehabilitation is provided for a person whose
504 visual acuity has been impaired and to expend such funds for the
505 purpose or purposes for which they are made available. The State
506 Treasurer shall be the custodian of such funds.

507 Sec. 22. Section 10-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the
508 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

509 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
510 may cooperate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government
511 in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to
512 vocational rehabilitation, and is authorized to adopt such methods of
513 administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary
514 for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for
515 vocational rehabilitation and to comply with such conditions as may
516 be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes.

517 Sec. 23. Section 10-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the
518 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

519 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
520 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to determine
521 the order to be followed in selecting those eligible persons to whom
522 vocational rehabilitation services will be provided, in accordance with
523 federal regulations.

524 Sec. 24. Section 10-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
525 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

526 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
527 may place in remunerative occupations persons whose capacity to earn
528 a living has been lost or impaired by lessened visual acuity and who,
529 in [the] its opinion, [of the board,] are susceptible of placement, and
530 may make such regulations as are necessary for the administration of
531 the provisions of sections 10-306 to 10-310, inclusive.

532 Sec. 25. Section 10-310 of the general statutes is repealed and the
533 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

534 The limitations on expenditures for a blind person provided in this
535 chapter shall not apply to the expenditures for vocational
536 rehabilitation of a person of lessened visual acuity as set forth in

537 sections 10-306 to 10-309, inclusive, provided the combined biennial
538 expenditures under this chapter and under said sections shall not
539 exceed the biennial appropriation to the [Board of Education and]
540 Connecticut Services for the Blind by the General Assembly.

541 Sec. 26. Section 10-311 of the general statutes is repealed and the
542 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

543 The [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind
544 shall annually file with the comptroller a balance sheet as of June
545 thirtieth and a statement of operations for the fiscal year ending on
546 that date. A copy of such statement shall be filed with the Auditors of
547 Public Accounts.

548 Sec. 27. Section 10-311a of the general statutes is repealed and the
549 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

550 The case records of the [Board of Education and] Connecticut
551 Services for the Blind maintained for the purposes of this chapter shall
552 be confidential and the names and addresses of recipients of assistance
553 under this chapter shall not be published nor used for purposes not
554 directly connected with the administration of this chapter, except as
555 necessary to carry out the provisions of section 17b-6.

556 Sec. 28. Subdivision (9) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
557 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

558 (9) "Participating agencies" includes, but is not limited to, the
559 Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
560 and Families and Mental Retardation, the Insurance Department, the
561 [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind, the
562 Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and the Office of
563 Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

564 Sec. 29. Section 17b-656 of the general statutes is repealed and the
565 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

566 Whenever any products made or manufactured by or services

567 provided by persons with disabilities through community
568 rehabilitation programs described in subsection (b) of section 17b-655
569 or in any workshop established, operated or funded by nonprofit and
570 nonsectarian organizations for the purpose of providing persons with
571 disabilities training and employment suited to their abilities meet the
572 requirements of any department, institution or agency supported in
573 whole or in part by the state as to quantity, quality and price such
574 products shall have preference over products or services from other
575 providers, except (1) articles produced or manufactured by blind
576 persons under the direction or supervision of the [Board of Education
577 and] Connecticut Services for the Blind as provided in section 10-298a,
578 (2) articles produced or manufactured by Department of Correction
579 industries as provided in section 18-88, and (3) emergency purchases
580 made under section 4-98. All departments, institutions and agencies
581 supported in whole or in part by the state shall purchase such articles
582 made or manufactured and services provided by persons with
583 disabilities from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of the
584 Department of Social Services. Any political subdivision of the state
585 may purchase such articles and services through the Bureau of
586 Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Social Services. A list
587 describing styles, designs, sizes and varieties of all such articles made
588 by persons with disabilities and describing all available services
589 provided by such persons shall be prepared by the Connecticut
590 Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. The Bureau of Rehabilitation
591 Services of the Department of Social Services shall cooperate with the
592 [State Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind by
593 submitting necessary information concerning such products and
594 services to the [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the
595 Blind at frequent intervals.

596 Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 2c-2b of the general statutes is
597 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

598 (e) The following governmental entities and programs are
599 terminated, effective July 1, 2007, unless reestablished in accordance
600 with the provisions of section 2c-10:

- 601 (1) Regional advisory councils for children and youth center
602 facilities, established under section 17a-30;
- 603 (2) Repealed by P.A. 93-262, S. 86, 87;
- 604 (3) Advisory Council on Children and Families, established under
605 section 17a-4;
- 606 (4) [Board of Education and] Connecticut Services for the Blind,
607 established under section 10-293;
- 608 (5) Repealed by P.A. 84-361, S. 6, 7;
- 609 (6) Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, established
610 under section 46a-27;
- 611 (7) Advisory and planning councils for regional centers for the
612 mentally retarded, established under section 17a-273;
- 613 (8) Board for State Academic Awards, established under section 10a-
614 143;
- 615 (9) Repealed by P.A. 94-245, S. 45, 46;
- 616 (10) Repealed by P.A. 85-613, S. 153, 154;
- 617 (11) State Library Board, established under section 11-1;
- 618 (12) Advisory Council for Special Education, established under
619 section 10-76i;
- 620 (13) State Commission on the Arts, established under section 10-369;
- 621 (14) Connecticut Historical Commission, established under section
622 10-320b;
- 623 (15) Repealed by P.A. 89-362, S. 4, 5;
- 624 (16) Repealed by June Sp. Sess. P.A. 91-14, S. 28, 30;

625 (17) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101;

626 (18) State Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration,
627 established under section 4b-60;

628 (19) Repealed by P.A. 90-230, S. 100, 101; and

629 (20) Examining Board for Crane Operators, established under
630 section 29-222.

PRI Joint Favorable C/R HS

HS Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO

GAE Joint Favorable

ED Joint Favorable